

were formed. The species which flourished at that time have changed, or have become extinct as the penalty for not changing. Life—or the matter with which Life is associated—turns and eddies in a state of never-ending flux.

Death appears to be the inevitable result of stagnation—of a condition in which the impulses of Life can no longer keep the stream of Matter in motion. We live in danger of being choked by the wastage of our bodies : sleep enables secretion to overtake the process of wastage, and to rid us of accumulations that have collected during our active hours. But not entirely. Gradually the accumulations increase, clog our activities and finally strangle them. Apart from the effect of injury or disease, the duration of Life seems to depend upon the strength of a propulsive force which may be likened to the spin which keeps a top rotating. It is extraordinary that this force should be of such varying efficiency—sufficing, in some cases, to prolong life for a century, and in other cases failing after a few days or even hours. But, in the conceptions of science, time is of little account, and, if we can forget it, birth and death will appear to resemble the vibrations which constitute light or sound—nulsations which maintain a stream of continuity.

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This brief survey of Life appears to have disclosed six leading characteristics, which, in greater or less degree, are manifested throughout

the animal and vegetable kingdom:
responsive
sensation, changefulness, and the
two pairs
of opposites, — instinct and
consciousness, spontaneity and repetitiveness. Before
proceeding to consider these attributes in more
detail, we
may pause for a moment to reflect
again upon the

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